

Great grandniece of Wright brothers to attend centennial event

By Lori Newman
FSH Public Affairs

Amanda Wright Lane, great grandniece of Orville and Wilbur Wright will be in San Antonio March 2 to attend the Foulois Centennial of Military Flight Celebration at Fort Sam Houston.

"The story of Benny Foulois is such a compelling story. He was not only the first military pilot; he made his solo flight with only written instructions from Uncle Wilbur," said Lane.

"It was a tough time back then, I think of how courageous those pilots were; they were like the astronauts of the past," she said.

Lane is a trustee for The Wright Family Foundation of the Dayton Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable fund.

According to the Dayton Foundation Web site, The Wright Family Foundation supports the preservation of aviation history related to the lives of the Wright brothers by funding projects that include research and publication of early aviation history.

It provides scholarships for studies in the fields of aviation and aeronautics, educational programming, the restoration and display of aviation artifacts, and the development of landmarks and memorials related to the Wrights' story.

Since the foundation's inception in 1990, The Wright Family Foundation has donated approximately \$1.4 million to twelve aviation-related organizations.

"It is important to honor our history and the history of aviation. Aviation is changing and growing every day, every



Amanda Wright Lane

minute," Lane said.

"Aviation and the aerospace industry continue to grow and affect every aspect of our lives from medicine to communication to technology."

As a Wright family

spokesperson, Lane consults with researchers and academics who are working to preserve the legacy of the Wright brothers.

She also lectures on the family's history and works to raise awareness of the two national parks dedicated to telling the Wright brothers story; the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park in Ohio and the Wright Brothers National Memorial in North Carolina.

Today, Lane is actively involved with the National Aviation Hall of Fame and Aviation Trail Incorporated. She currently serves on the boards of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, Dayton History, Wright-Dunbar, Inc., Wright B, Inc., Engineers' Club of Dayton, and the First Flight Foundation in North Carolina.

In January, Lane joined other aviation supporters such as John Travolta, Kurt Russell and Morgan Freeman when she was named a Living Legend in a ceremony held in Beverly Hills, Calif.

In 2009, she received Aviation Trail's Trailblazer award for promoting and preserving the Dayton region's aviation heritage.

Lane also received a Public Service Award for "outstanding contributions to the aeronautics industry on national and international levels, and for dedicated efforts to preserve aviation history through education and outreach" from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 2008.

"I am looking forward to coming to San Antonio for this celebration of aviation history," she explained.